

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. It is gratefully acknowledged that Claims 10-13 have been allowed. It is also gratefully acknowledged that Claims 6 and 8 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Makino et al. (U.S. Patent 4,581,726) in view of Phelan (U.S. Patent 5,060,205). The Examiner has rejected Claims 4, 5, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Makino et al. in view of Phelan, and further in view of Korba (U.S. Patent 5,319,611).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 6 and intervening Claims 3 and 5. Based on the foregoing amendment, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Please add new Claim 14. New Claim 14 is comprised of pending Claim 1 and objected to Claim 8. As new Claim 14 contains patentable subject matter, allowance of Claim 14 is respectfully requested.

Please cancel Claims 3, 5 and 6 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 4, 7 and 9 to now depend on Claim 1.

Independent Claims 1 and 14 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2, 4 and 7-9, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2, 4 and 7-9 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-

14, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written in a cursive style.

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